



## The Friends of Highgate Library

# NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2019

### Highgate Library News

**December event moved to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>.** The Government upset our plans for an event on December 12<sup>th</sup> by declaring that as the general election date. However we are delighted that Beth Shaw and Martin Bould were able to offer an alternative date, so our exciting pop up drama with audience participation will go ahead. We have enjoyed three previous such dramas and you are always willing to act the parts with the script and props provided, so do come and join in. You are also welcome to come and watch.

***This will be followed by our offer of our usual mulled wine, seasonal refreshments and great conversation too.***

As for the election, I do hope you will vote for a party pledging support for our precious public libraries. A shocking 478 have closed across the UK since 2010.

*Please note we have also switched our January and February events, so chef Oliver Rowe will join us in January and we welcome Tracy in February. I am sure you will enjoy both!*

When Jehane Markham came to present her poetry in October, we asked her to mark the arrival of an additional plaque in the garden in front of the library. Here we remember campaigners who fought to save our library. Her husband, Roger Lloyd Pack, was our president for 14 years and was a very active supporter, speaking up for us at Council meetings, attending our AGMs and sometimes performing for us too. Now there is a plaque to remember him.

Sarah Harrison's piece from the library management group is full of very good and exciting news – new grants, new services and even some redecoration. Enjoy it and come and make use of the new services with your family.

Remember there is always more information and an extended and often updated newsletter on our website.

As always, we welcome you to join us as volunteers to work in the library, to manage the hall or to join our committee to plan and run events. Just come and talk to any committee member at an event or contact us by email or through our website. We also welcome your suggestions for events.

Please visit our website, <http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL>.

*Linda Lefevre, Chair*

## Things to Come

**New date! Tuesday December 17th PETERLOO! 200th anniversary pop-up play** In 1819 peaceful protest met state tyranny - come and take part in Manchester's historic drama. Martin Bould and Beth Shaw have created another play for audience participation – inviting you to become the characters in this important drama. You will of course be fortified by mulled wine and tasty snacks as is our December tradition!

**Thursday January 9th at 7.30pm Oliver Rowe Food For All Seasons** Oliver is a chef and author whose work focuses on local, seasonal food. His book, *Food for All Seasons* is a personal wander through the food year, featuring many favourite recipes. He is passionate about sourcing local produce. His work focusses on sustainability and how our eating and cooking cultures impact the planet. He trained at Moro and then ran and cooked at two restaurants in Kings Cross. Since 2010 he has worked on a variety of food projects, from residencies and pop-ups to food administration, growing projects and farm work.

**Thursday February 13th at 7.30pm Tracy Chevalier *A Single Thread*** It is 1932 and the losses of the First World War are still keenly felt. Violet Speedwell, mourning for her fiancé and her brother and regarded as a 'surplus woman' unlikely to marry, resolves to strike out alone. A new life awaits her in Winchester. Violet falls in with the broderers, a disparate group of women charged with embroidering kneelers for the Cathedral and is soon entwined in their lives and their secrets. Tracy Chevalier, one of our valued patrons, will present her latest compelling novel.

**Thursday March 12th at 7.30pm *One Two Three* a film and discussion** For Sue Crockford as a young mother in 1969, childcare was a central concern and with other parents, she set up the Children's Community Centre in Dartmouth Park Hill, a radical nursery fostering child-centred learning and the values of gender and social equality. This video records activities in the centre against the background of the development of Highgate Newtown. Join us to see this short video and meet some of those involved at the time.

**Thursday April 9th at 7.30pm FOHL AGM followed by *How Hampstead Heath Was Saved* Helen Lawrence** Helen, who was involved with the H&HS for many years, has written a new history of the Heath and the many battles to save it.

## Recent Events

**Sunday September 8th York Rise Street Festival** Our usual stall attracted many visitors and we recruited members and a new audience for events. Our new programmes were very popular!

**Thursday September 12th 7.30pm Fabian Watkinson *The Golden Age of Camden Housing*** Our September event was given by Fabian Watkinson. He gave a large audience, including many architects, an excellent overview of social housing designed and built in the 60s and 70s by the talented young architects employed by Camden Council. The event was complemented by a display of photographs showing the

building of the Whittington Estate.

We were also able to buy Fabian's book with the same title which arrived hot off the press. This book is a perfect companion for anyone who is interested in discovering the architectural merits of estates like Alexandra Road, Maiden Lane and Branch Hill just to name a few.

### **Thursday October 10th Three Wild Women An evening of poetry.**

Our three distinguished poets enthralled us with three distinct approaches to poetry. Martina Evans impressed with her narrative poems about Ireland, becoming and acting the characters telling the story. Then Linda Evans offered a lively and mixed batch of poems, both serious and amusing. Jehane Markham ended the evening with another eclectic mix of poems, moving and delighting the audience.

**Thursday November 14th Children's Books in the Georgian Era** Michèle Cohen's talk opened a window on to this fascinating subject. Referring to the books published, she told us about the stories and the illustrations they contained and the moral attitudes they presented. Michèle's painstaking research revealed some surprising insights, not least how little part gender played in establishing the standards by which children's behaviour should be judged and the extent to which fathers were involved in their children's lives in the home. While emphasising how much work still remains to be done, it was good to learn from Michèle, Emeritus Professor Humanities at Richmond University, that the fruits of her research will appear in a collaborative work to be published by OUP.

## **News from the Library**

**Please note that Highgate Library will be closing for the Christmas break on Saturday 21st December at 4pm, and will re-open at 10am on Thursday 2nd January.**

Highgate Library is going from strength to strength!

We have just heard that both the 3-year funding bids for which we (FOHL Charitable Foundation) applied to the Community Infrastructure Levy for have been successful.

For the younger children we have been awarded the funding to re-launch the Toy Library, entirely renewing the stock and with a dedicated staff member to engage with those bringing Under 5s to the Library on a "Stay and Play" basis. These new sessions will take place weekly in the morning.

For the older children, those of junior school age, we are starting a Saturday morning computer club. The finance for this project will also enable us to provide all the equipment and to pay for a dedicated staff member to run the club.

The Library volunteers will support both projects but having dedicated staff for each project will provide a crucial element of continuity as well as enabling links to be made with other Camden libraries and services.

Earlier in the autumn the Library's very popular Tuesday morning Rhyme Time session for the Under 5s was supplemented by a new session for this age group "Singing Stories". These sessions, provided by Highgate School as part of their community involvement programme, take place on Wednesday afternoons.

The very well attended Chess Club is now going to extend its hours and in future will run from 5pm to 6.30pm. While this is primarily aimed at the 8+ year olds it is a great pleasure to see several adults coming in regularly to play chess with the children. All are welcome, so do come!

The provision for adults has also been boosted by Camden Libraries' new digital offer. This enables all Camden Library members to access many thousands of e-books and e-audio books, the full copy of the current issue over 160 newspapers and a large range of reference books from across the world. All you need to do is to bring your laptop, tablet/iPad or smart phone into Highgate Library and download the relevant programmes. Staff are on hand to help with this if needed.

From the New Year the public computers will be upgraded to Windows 10; the operating systems upgraded to improve speed and enable printing (including A3 and colour) direct from individual computers; and a variety of exciting new digital equipment will be available for use in the Library.

And last, the Children's Library is being re-decorated! Highgate Library – a lovely and much-loved place!!

**Sarah Harrison, Chair of Highgate Library Management Group**

### **Keeping in touch**

We use email to send urgent messages and reminders of events so please ensure that we have your up to date email address. Ours is [FOHL@dartmouthpark.org](mailto:FOHL@dartmouthpark.org) .

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#### **FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY**

c/o Highgate Library, Chester Road, N19 5DH

Chair: Linda Lefevre

Vice Chair & Membership: Sarah Carrier

Hon. Secretary: Margot Kafno

Hon. Treasurer: Patrick Lefevre

Committee: Michele Cohen, Agnes Stewart, Paul Harris

Sarah Harrison, Ann Cheyne & Virginia Kerridge

President: Sue Perkins

Patrons: Julian Barnes, Joanna Briscoe, Tracy Chevalier, Hunter Davies, Caitlin Davies, John Harvey, & Charlotte Mendelson

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